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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 COME-00 AGRE-00
DOE-15 SOE-02 HA-05 /139 W
----------053396 271447Z /46
R 271245Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4800
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
RUFHEBEMBASSY BERLIN 201
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 1239

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BU, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI VISIT TO BULGARIA

REF: A) SOFIA 1180, B) TRIPOLI 872, C) SOFIA 77
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1. SUMMARY. COLONEL QADHAFI AND LARGE, HIGH-LEVEL LIBYAN DELEGATION VISITED BULGARIA JUNE 17-20. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON FURTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ALTHOUGH TALKS INCLUDED BULGARIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS. QADHAFI MET WITH ARAB STUDENTS AND VISIT STRESSED HIS RELIGIOUS ROLE. COMMUNIQUE

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WAS PREDICTABLE BUT CONTAINED SHARP
LANGUAGE ON US AND OTHER WESTERN AFRICAN POLICY. END
SUMMARY.

2. COLONEL QADHAFI, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE SOFIA, GENERAL
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARIAT MEMBCMUSTAFA
HARUBI, AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARY MUHAMMAD
ALI TABU, TRADE SECRETARY ABU BAKR ALI AL-SHARIF, INDUSTRY
AND MINERAL WEALTH SECRETARY JADALLAH AZZUZ AL-TALHI, FOREIGN
AFFAIRS SECRETARY ALI ABD AL-SALAM AL-TURAYKI, AND OTHER
SENIOR OFFICIALS, VISITED BULGARIA JUNE 17-20 AT INVITATION
OF TODOR ZHIVKOV IN HIS ROLES BOTH AS BULGARIAN COMMUNIST
PAROY (BCP) FIRST SECRETARY AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE
COUNCIL. (EMBASSY POUCHING TRIPOLI LIST OF DELEGATION.)

3. QADHAFI WAS AN HOUR AND A HALF LATE IN ARRIVING, CAUSING
SOFIA STREETS TO BE BLOCKED OFF FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS.
(SOME GOB ELEMENTS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO WORK SATURDAY MORNING
TO PROVIDE WELCOMING CROWDS BUT THESE FADED AWAY AS THE
ARRIVAL TIME CAME AND WENT.) QADHAFI WAS MET BY ZHIVKOV AND
HIS DAUGHTER, CULTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LYUDMILA ZHIVKOVA.
HE WAS GIVEN A STATE DINNER BY ZHIVKOV, HOSTED A RECEPTION
FOR RESIDENT AMBASSADORS (REF A), AND VISITED BOTEVGRAD AND
PRAVETS, TODOR ZHIVKOV'S HOMETOWN, WITH ZHIVKOV.

4. QADHAFI AND OTHER LIBYAN OFFICIALS MET WITH RANGE
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OF BULGARIAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER
MLADENOV, AGRICULTURE MINISTER STOICHKOV, DEPUTY PRIME
RMINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS ANDREY
LUKANOV, THE MINISTER OF MACHINEBUILDING, THE MINISTER
OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL
BANK, AND THE FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
COLONEL GENERAL ATANAS SEMERDZHIEV.

5. PRESS REPORTS AND COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT TALKS DEALT
WITH "MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF INDUSTRY,
TRADE, AND AGRICULTURE." COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED COOPERATION
IN FIELDS OF SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION, GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS,
AGRICULTURE, HYDROTECHNICAL IMPROVEMENT, AND PROVISION OF
SPECIALISTS.AGREEMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL
COOPERATION WAS SIGNED FOR PERIOD 1978-1985 (REF B). AN
EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS THAT BULGARIANS PRESSED LIBYANS
HARD FOR INCREASED PETROLEUM SALES TO BULGARIA AND FOR
INCREASED LIBYAN HARD CURRENCY PAYMENTS FOR TECHNICAL AND
OTHER ASSISTANCE. EMBASSY DOES NOT YET HAVE HARD DATA ON
THESE POINTS BUT WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK IT.

6. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE PLOUGHED NO NEW

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GROUND IN POINTS ON MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, ETC. IT
DID CONTAIN SHARP SENTENCE ON "ARMED INTERVENTION OF NUMBER
OFWESTERN COUNTRIES IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES,
PLANS FOR INCLUDING SOME OR OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN SHPERE
OF NATO ACTIVITY, AND ATTEMPTS TO CREATE JOINT ARMED FORCES

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USMISSION USNATO
KRUDKRW/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1891

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 1239

FOR SUPPRESSING LIBERATION STRUGGLE" IN AFRICA. TWO SIDES
ALSO EXPRESSED "CONCERN" OVER "DANGEROUS CHANGES RECENTLY
IN US POLICY."

7. QAXAFI'S PROGRAM LAID HEAVY STRESS ON HIS ROLE AS A

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MOSLEM AND ARAB LEADER. HE PRAYED IN SOFIA'S MOSQUE (SPECIALLY SPRUCED UP BY THE GOB FOR THE OCCASION) AND MET WITH BULGARIAN GRAND MUFTI MEHMED TOPCHIEV. (QADHAFI'S PARTY INCLUDED LIBYAN GRAND MUFTI SHEIKH MAHMUD SUFI.) RUMORS IN ADVANCE OF VISIT HAD IT THAT QADHAFI WOULD RAISE WITH ZHIVKOV QUESTION OF RIGHTS OF BULGARIAN MUSLIMS -- BOTH THOSE OF TURKISH ORIGIN AND THE POMAKS, ETHNIC BULGARIANS OF THE MUSLIM FAITH. PRE-LIMINARY POST-VISIT REPORTS INDICATE THAT HE DID NOT.

8. QADHAFI ALSO MET JUNE 19 AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY WITH GROUP OF ARABSTUDENTS HEADED DB RIAFFMASHAL, A JORDANIAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF ARAB STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN BULGARIA. QUESTIONING WAS REPORTEDLY SHARPER THAN BULGARIAN HOSTS AND QADHAFI WOULD HAVE LIKED (PRESERVING THE REPUTATION OF ARAB STUDENTS IN SOFIA FOR AWKWARDNESS -- REF C, FOR EXAMPLE). HE SIMPLY REFUSED TO ANSWER A REPEATED QUESTION ON THE IDEO-LOGICAL CONSISTENCY BETWEEN HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMUNISM. THERE WAS ALSO HOSTILE QUESTIONING FROM SUDANESE STUDENTS ABOUT LIBYAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, HE WAS WLL RECEIVED BY ARAB STUDENTS AS YOUNG AND MILITANT.

9. QADHAFI AND PARTY DEPARTED JUNE 20 FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SEEN OFF BY TODOR ZHIVKOV AND HALF THE BCP POLITBURO.
GARTHOFF

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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PEPR, BU, LY
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Type: TE
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